

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows.

Claims 1-9 (Cancelled).

10. (Currently Amended) A reaming tool, comprising:
a body adapted to couple to a drill string at both axial ends thereof, the body having a plurality reaming blades affixed thereto, selected ones of the plurality of reaming blades having at least one cutter attached thereto at a selected positions and orientations, the plurality of reaming blades comprising at least one radially most extensive reaming blade; and
comprising ~~at least one~~ pilot blade azimuthally spaced apart from the at least one radially most extensive reaming blade, the at least one pilot blade affixed to the body longitudinally ahead of the at least one radially most extensive reaming blade.
11. (Currently Amended) The reaming tool of claim 10, wherein the at least one cutter attached to selected ones of the plurality of reaming blades is at a selected positions and orientations to minimize a net lateral force developed by the reaming tool.
12. (Original) The reaming tool of claim 10, wherein the at least one pilot blade includes a gauge pad having a diameter substantially equal to a drill diameter of a pilot bit used to drill a pilot hole longitudinally ahead of the reaming tool.
13. (Original) The reaming tool of claim 10, wherein selected ones of the plurality of reaming blades comprise a spiral structure.
14. (Original) A reaming tool, comprising:
a body adapted to couple to a drill string at both axial ends thereof; and
a plurality of reaming blades affixed to the body, selected ones of the plurality of reaming blades having at least one cutter attached thereto, at least one of

the selected ones of the plurality of reaming blades having at least one insert on a laterally outermost surface.

15. (Original) The reaming tool of claim 14, wherein selected ones of the plurality of reaming blades comprise a spiral structure.
16. (Currently Amended) A reaming tool, comprising:
 - a body adapted to couple to a drill string at both axial ends thereof; and
 - a plurality of reaming blades affixed to the body, the plurality of reaming blades comprising:
 - at least one radially most extensive reaming blade defining a drill circle substantially coaxial with a longitudinal axis of the body; and
 - at least two radially less extensive reaming blades azimuthally spaced apart so as to define a pass-through circle smaller than and axially offset from the drill circle, wherein the at least one radially most extensive blade substantially avoids contact when passing through an opening having ~~about~~ a diameter substantially equal to a diameter of the pass-through circle.
17. (Original) The reaming tool of claim 16, wherein selected ones of the at least one radially most extensive reaming blade comprise wear resistant inserts on laterally outermost surfaces thereof.